Posts to set up a Mail Regulatory and Development Authority through amendment in the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 to ensure a level playing field for all service providers in the Mail Sector including the Department of Posts. Any amendment in the said Act is subject to the approval of the Parliament and assent of the Hon'ble President of India.

(b) The draft Indian Post Office Act (Amendment) Bill, 2006 was placed on public domain "http//:www.indiapost.gov.in" from 19.04.2006 up to 10.05.2006 for calling for the views and comments thereon. The views and comments in response thereto are being analyzed. The comments of stake holding Departments/Ministries have been obtained and the draft proposal will be vetted by the Ministry of Law and Justice before the Amendment Bill is submitted to the Parliament.

(c) The summary of the details of the views expressed by public representatives, experts and others is given in the Annexure *[See* Appendix 208, Annexure No. 4].

(d) Yes, Sir

(e) Discussion with the representatives of courier industry have taken place and their concerns will be kept in view while finalizing the draft Amendment Bill.

Improvement of Postal Services in Vaishali, Ghaziabad

1652. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the postal services in Sector 4, 5 etc., of Vaishali in Ghaziabad district are not functioning properly, in as much as the letters and other postal dak is not delivered to the households inspite of repeated requests from the affected families;

(b) whether on account of non-recipt of postal letters in time, which includes interview call, medical reports, admission notices, appointment letters etc., the residents of these sectors have been suffering and passing through harrowing tension and trouble; and

(c) If so, whether Government would enquire into this lapse and adress the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per our records, no complaint or request regarding improper functioning of postal services in Sector 4,5,etc., of Vaishali in Ghaziabad district has been received. On further enquiry, the delivery arrangements of these sectors were found to be satisfactory.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Commemorative stamp on Guru Arjun Dev Ji

1653. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan Government have issued a commemorative stamp on Guru Arjun Dev Ji on his 400 years of the martyrdom day;

(b) if so, whether Government have any such plan for issuance of a commemorative stamp to honour Guru Arjun Dev Ji on this ocassion; and

(c) if so, by when it would be issued and whether any commemorative stamp on any of the ten Sikh Gurus have been issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Proposal for issue of a commemorative postage stamp on Guru Arjun Dev Ji has been received by the Department. Proposals for issue of commemorative postage stamps are examined on the basis of certain guidelines which are meant to ensure that the postage stamps, when issued, have adequate philatelic value. After examination of the proposal, it has been decided to place the same before the philatelic Advisory Committee (PAC) which is a duly constituted body meant to consider and recommend on the stamp proposals received by the Department, at his next meeting.